

## CLAIMS

Please withdraw claims 14-18, 20-24 and 29-33 from consideration.

1. (Original) An apparatus allowing for tax-optimized, managed investment portfolios, comprising
  - an investor account database storing account data for a plurality of financial portfolios;
  - wherein the assets of each financial portfolio are allocated to at least one investment style manager, each investment style manager maintaining investment style data;
  - a portfolio optimizer operative to optimize a financial portfolio for after-tax returns, factoring in risk, return, and tax costs, based on the investment style data corresponding to the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio and the account data in the investor account database.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the investment style data is a model portfolio.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the investment style data allows for creation of a model portfolio.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the model portfolio data comprises a plurality of securities and their respective weights.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the portfolio optimizer is operative to minimize tracking error from the model portfolios of the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio, balancing tracking error, tax costs, and transaction costs.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the portfolio optimizer includes means for modeling a tax code applicable to the client associated with financial portfolio.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the means for modeling a tax code is operative to provide the incremental tax costs resulting from a given set of trades.

8. (Original) An apparatus allowing for tax-optimized, managed investment portfolios, comprising

an investor account database storing account data for a plurality of financial portfolios;

wherein the assets of each financial portfolio are allocated between at least two asset classes;

wherein each asset class has associated therewith at least one investment style manager, each investment style manager maintaining a model portfolio;

a portfolio optimizer operative to optimize a financial portfolio across asset classes for after-tax returns, factoring in risk, return, and tax costs, based on the model portfolio data corresponding to the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio and the account data in the investor account database.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the portfolio optimizer is operative to minimize tracking error from the model portfolios of the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio, balancing tracking error, tax costs, and transaction costs.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the portfolio optimizer is operative to minimize tracking error from the model portfolios of the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio, balancing tracking error, tax costs and tax preferences corresponding to the financial portfolio.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the model portfolio data comprises a plurality of securities and their respective weights.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the investor account database stores portfolio optimization settings in association with corresponding financial portfolios, and wherein the portfolio optimizer is operative to optimize a financial portfolio across asset classes for after-tax returns, factoring in risk, return, and tax costs, based on the model portfolio data corresponding to the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio and the account data and portfolio optimization settings in investor account database.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the investor account database stores client preference data in association with corresponding financial portfolios, and wherein the portfolio optimizer is operative to optimize a financial portfolio across asset classes for after-tax returns, factoring in risk, return, and tax costs, based on the model portfolio data corresponding to the investment style managers associated with the

financial portfolio and the account data and client preference data in investor account database.

Claims 14-18 (Withdrawn)

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the portfolio optimizer is operative to receive external transactions data relating to financial events external to the financial portfolio, and wherein the portfolio optimizer integrates the external transactions data into optimization of the financial portfolio.

Claims 20-24 (Withdrawn)

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the apparatus is operative to transmit calculated adjustments for a financial portfolio to an accounting system for trade execution.

26. (Original) A method facilitating the maintenance of tax-optimized, investment portfolios, the method comprising the steps of

receiving investment style data from a plurality of investment style managers;

receiving account data relating to a financial portfolio, wherein the assets of the financial portfolio are allocated to at least one investment style manager; and,

optimizing the financial portfolio for after-tax returns, balancing risk, return and tax costs, based on the investment style data from the investment style manager(s) associated with the financial portfolio and the account data associated with the financial account.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the investment style data for each investment style manager includes data characterizing a model portfolio.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the optimizing step comprises the step of

minimizing tracking error from the model portfolios of the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio, balancing tracking error, transaction and tax costs.

Claims 29-33 (Canceled)

34. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the account data includes client data relating to financial events outside the financial portfolio and wherein the method further comprises the steps of

calculating the net tax position of the client associated with the financial portfolio.

35. (Original) A method facilitating the management of tax-optimized financial portfolios allocated between at least two investment style managers, the method comprising the steps of

maintaining a financial portfolio, wherein the assets of the financial portfolio are allocated to at least two investment style managers, wherein the investment style managers each maintain a model portfolio;

receiving model portfolio data from the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio; and

calculating adjustments to the financial portfolio, balancing risk, return and the effect of taxes, to minimize tracking error from the model portfolios of the investment style managers associated with the financial portfolio and to optimize after-tax returns.